

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The status of the claims is as set forth in the above listing of the claims. In the present Amendment, the Applicants have canceled claim 31. No claims have been amended or added, and no new matter has been added. Based on prior Amendments filed and the present Amendment, claims 9-10, 14, 27, 56-58 and 66-68 remain pending in the present application. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the present Amendment.

### **I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9-10, 14, 27, 56-58 and 66-68 are allowable, and the Applicants acknowledge this finding.

### **II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 31 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0212870 to Nowakowski. In response, the Applicants have canceled claim 31, rendering this rejection moot.

### **III. CONCLUSION**

The Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and request a Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney of Record if doing so would expedite the prosecution of the present application.

The three-month response deadline is set to expire on March 23, 2009. As a result, a one-month extension request and fee is included with this filing. If any fees are determined to be

due, the Applicants hereby authorize the Director to charge the necessary amount to Deposit Account No. 13-0480, referencing the Attorney Docket Number specified herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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